

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-23 were originally filed in the above-identified application, and claims 9, 11, and 12 were examined in this application. With this Amendment, claims 5-8 and 14-23 are being canceled, and claims 24-28 are being added. Thus, claim 1-4, 9-13, and 24-28 are now the pending claims in this application.

Claims 9, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Saverslak (U.S. Patent No. 3,036,922). The ground for rejection is believed to be overcome by the amendments to the claims for the reasons discussed below.

Responsive to the election and restriction requirements made by the Examiner, the Applicant confirms its election of Group I, Species II (claim 9-13), Subspecies 2b, with traverse. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider all of the pending claims in this application for the reasons expressed previously. More specifically, independent claims 1 and 9 recite the same subject matter and, in fact, state nearly the identical words after the transition term "comprising. Thus, the product recited in claim 1 is essentially the same as the product as recited in claim 9. Moreover, independent claim 24 is similar to claim 9 except for the "wherein" clause. As such, the Applicant respectfully asserts that it would not overly burden the Examiner to fully examine all of the pending claims of this application at this time.

By this amendment, claims 1 and 9 differ from the subject matter disclosed by Saverslak (U.S. Patent No. 3,036,922), which describes a method of preparing a *boneless* cooked poultry product, by reciting a semi-boneless poultry product that has "at least one of a wing bone, a thigh bone, or a leg bone is attached to the integral butchered cut." Support for this amendment is found in the specification at, for example, page 10, lines 1-6 and page 17, lines 23 and 24. In contrast, Saverslak discloses that the wing portions are removed from the carcass and may be discarded, sold separately, or de-boned and included in the product (see column 3, lines 8-16, 32-34, and 49-50).

Newly-added claim 24 differs from the subject matter disclosed by Saverslak by reciting that the unitary meat product is shaped to resemble a fully boned whole bird

roaster. Support for this amendment is found in the specification at, for example, page 14, lines 17-19. In contrast, Saverslak discloses that the "gluten sprinkled meat is rolled into a compact body of generally cylindrical configuration" (see column 4, lines 15-17).

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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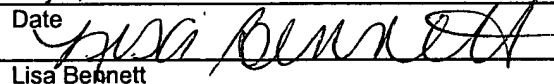
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Lisa Bennett

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